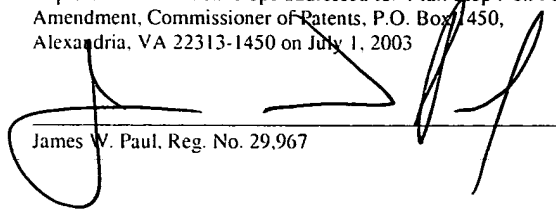


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James W. Paul, Reg. No. 29,967

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

DAVID A. FERRERA

Serial No.

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: COMPOSITE GUIDEWIRE

Prior Examiner: Charles Alan Marmor II

Prior Group Art Unit: 3736

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Continuation Application being filed under 37 CFR 1.53(b), based upon Serial No. 10/211,487 filed August 2, 2002, which is a continuation of 09/710,582 filed November 10, 2000, now Patent No. 6,432,066, which is a Divisional of Serial No. 09/221,393 filed December 28, 1998, now Patent No. 6,165,140.